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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1433
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/CJCS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUALSFJ/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA IMMEDIATE
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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DEPT FOR S/I AND NEA/I

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TAGS: PREL OIC UN IZ JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN INVITED TO IRAQ NEIGHBORS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 28320

Classified By: Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)
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¶1. (C) Japan has received an invitation to attend the opening session of the March 10 Iraq Neighbors conference, according to Iraqi Ambassador to Japan Ghanim Al-Jumaily. Al-Jumaily told Embassy Tokyo Political Officer that he had lobbied hard with his Ministry and also convinced Vice President Tariq Al-Hashimi to lobby Prime Minister Al-Maliki on Japan's behalf. Ultimately the decision to invite Japan and Germany had been agreed upon although, according to Al-Jumaily, "it hadn't been easy!" MOFA Second Middle East Division Deputy Director Masaki Yasumatsu subsequently confirmed to Political Officer that Iraqi Foreign Minister Zebari had contacted the Japanese Embassy in Baghdad the evening of March 8 to extend the invitation. He indicated Japan will be represented at the meeting by its Charge d'Affaires, as their new ambassador is not scheduled to arrive until March 17.

SCHIEFFER